

## **"THE ORIGIN OF SOME DENOMINATIONS"**

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### **WHEN DID THE CHURCH BEGIN?**

Christ said, "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). This was a FUTURE TENSE statement indicating that HIS Church, was not yet in existence. After His resurrection, Christ said "repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name unto all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:47) is very helpful, because from it we learn:

1. **THE GOSPEL, the DEATH, BURIAL, and RESURRECTION** (I Cor. 15:1-4) **BEGAN** to be preached at Jerusalem, as recorded in Acts 2:14-47.
2. At Jerusalem, believers were told what to do to be saved - Acts 2:38-41: **REPENT and BE BAPTIZED.**
3. Up to this time, the Church is spoken of **IN EXISTENCE.** Please note: Acts 5:11... "And great fear came on the whole church..."  
Acts 11:22... "And the report concerning them came to the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem..."  
Acts 11:26... "They were gathered together with the church..." (Antioch)
5. John the Baptist did NOT start the church. If so, it was a Holy Spirit LESS church, for the spirit was not yet given for some time after John's death... see John 7:37-39. Then too, it would have been a **BLOODLESS** church, for Christ had not yet shed His blood for our salvation... see Rom. 5:8,9 and Heb. 9:14,15.

### **CHRIST'S CHURCH IS NOT A DENOMINATION!**

The church we read about in the New Testament, the church of Christ, is not a denomination. It is not a division of anything, it is the one body of Christ (Eph. 4:4-12; I Cor. 12:20-27).

Jesus promised to build His church (Matt. 16:18) and it was founded or established in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of our Lord. The prophecies of Isaiah 2:2-3; Daniel 2:36-45; Joel 2:28 are all fulfilled in Acts 2:1-47.

Jesus is not only the founder of His church (Matt. 16:18), but He is also the foundation (I Cor. 3:11), the Head and Saviour (Eph. 5:23).

### **THE ORIGIN OF DENOMINATIONS:**

The following information is, in brief, historical and factual relative to the time, place and person by whom the denomination originated:

**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** - The first and mother of all denominations, began in 606 A.D. with Boniface III as the first pope. It was a result of the departure from the faith that the Holy Spirit predicted as recorded in Acts 20:28-30.

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**LUTHERAN CHURCH** - The first Protestant denomination, was founded by Martin Luther in 1521 A.D. at Wittenburg, Germany.

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND** - Later known as the Episcopal church in America, was founded by King Henry VIII in 1534. Because the Catholic church would not annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon so he could marry Anne Boleyn, he broke away and established this denomination with himself as head instead of the pope of Rome.

**PREBYTERIAN CHURCH** - Founder was John Calvin in Geneva, Switzerland, about 1535. Presbyterianism was very powerful in Scotland under the leadership of John Knox, who was influenced by Calvinism about 1560.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** - It grew out of Puritanism in England in 1602 due to the favor of congregational church government.

**BAPTIST CHURCH** - Was founded by John Smyth, who baptized himself by the pouring, in 1607 in Amsterdam, Holland. The first Baptist church in America was founded by Roger Williams at Providence, Rhode Island, in 1639.

**QUAKERS** - Also called the Society of Friends, was founded by George Fox in 1650 at Derby, England.

**METHODIST CHURCH** - Was founded by Charles and John Wesley at Oxford, England, in 1729. A Christmas conference held at Baltimore, Maryland in December, 1784, organized the Methodist Episcopal church in America. The founders objected to the formalism and ritualism in the Church of England. The name Methodist is derived from their use and emphasis upon certain methods in their practices.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS** - Known as the Mormon church, founded by Joseph Smith at Fayette, New York, in 1830.

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS** - Was founded by William Miller in 1845 at Low Hampton, New York.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST** - Was founded by Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy (she was married many times) in Boston, Mass., in 1879.

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** - Was founded by Charles T. Russell in 1872 in Pittsburgh P.A. Followers were called Russellites after their founder. Later they were known as Millennial Dawnists and International Bible Students. Judge Ruthford who became president upon the death of Russell suggested the name of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931.

**CHURCH OF GOD (HOLINESS)** - Was founded by Richard G. Spurling in East Tennessee in 1886, to state the minutes of the 42nd General Assembly of the church of God held at Birmingham, Ala., August 28-31, 1948.

**NAZARENE CHURCH** - Was founded by P.F. Bresee and J.P. Widney at Los Angeles, California, in 1895, according to their church manual.

**THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - Was first listed in religious census in the year 1905. This denomination resulted from a division in the Church of Christ over Missionary Societies.

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